

## The Timor Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes* Is a Probable Host of the Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus*

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**Ringkasan.** Tulisan ini menyajikan hasil kunjungan ke Ende, Flores Tengah tanggal 20 September 2005 yang kemudian menemukan sepasang Cikrak Timor *Phylloscopus presbytes* yang sedang memberi makan anak Kangkok Sunda *Cuculus lepidus*. Informasi ini kemungkinan merupakan laporan pertama mengenai pengasuhan oleh inang terhadap anak *Cuculus lepidus* untuk kawasan Wallacea.

On a visit to Mount Kelimutu (8°46'S – 121°49'E), Ende regency, Central Flores, Nusa Tenggara, on 20 September 2005, a pair of Timor Leaf-warblers *Phylloscopus presbytes* was observed feeding a juvenile Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus* (formerly considered conspecific with Oriental Cuckoo *C. optatus* and Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus*; see King 2005, Payne 2005). The cuckoo was large with dark, mottled upperparts, and a light (creamy) coloured, barred breast and belly. The bill was tipped black, and the eye-ring and legs were yellow. Observations were made at an altitude of c. 1,580 m asl from the path leading up to the viewing-point on the mountain. The cuckoo was observed perched in the mid-story of a Casuarina tree, and was continuously fed by the pair of Leaf-warblers for a period of at least 10 min. Food was mainly small caterpillars. During the feeding the chick constantly shook its tail and wings but made no calls. After 10 min the young cuckoo flew off into the forest with the Leaf-warblers and was not seen again.

This is the first record of a probable host for the Sunda Cuckoo in Wallacea. On Flores, this species is a common resident at high altitudes, mainly above 1,000 m asl (Coates & Bishop 1997; pers.obs.), whereas the Oriental Cuckoo is a fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Although Verheijen (1964) recorded over 2,000 clutches of 101 species breeding on Flores during a period of 18 years, he did not record breeding by Sunda (or Oriental) Cuckoos. Coates & Bishop (1997) mention “flycatchers and warblers” as hosts of the Oriental Cuckoo, but their information is based on extralimital data. Although observations of feeding of cuckoos by various species do not constitute conclusive evidence that the feeders are the hosts, the lack of other species seen lingering around the cuckoo indicated that the Timor Leaf-warblers were the hosts in the above case. Recorded host species of the Sunda Cuckoo include the Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaneiceps* in Malaysia, the Mountain Leaf-warbler *P. trivirgatus* in Borneo and Java, and Sunda Warbler *S.*

*grammiceps* in Java (Hoogerwerf 1949; Hellebrekers & Hoogerwerf 1967; Becking 1975b, 1981; Wells 1999; Moyle *et al.* 2001). Thus it may be expected that the Timor Leaf-warbler is a host of the resident Sunda Cuckoo on Flores and Timor.

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